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HEALTH
A **ELSTREE RURAL DISTRICT**

C.H.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1945

BY

G. WINN EVERETT, M.B., B.S.

TOGETHER WITH

The Report

OF

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

A. D. S. BLACKHALL, A.R.San.I.

Members of the Council

Chairman:

A. McL. NIVEN, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

SIR PERCY EVERETT

Members:

G. I. BREW

T. H. COCHRANE

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MRS. A. M. R. HOOPER

P. T. HORTON, O.B.E.

R. J. MACNAUGHTON

W. G. TAYLER

Medical Officer of Health:

G. WINN EVERETT, M.B., B.S.

Sanitary Inspector:

A. D. S. BLACKHALL, A.R.San.I.

Clerks:

MISS D. L. HOUGHTON

J. S. RUCK

(H. M. Forces since May 1943)

MISS M. E. HODGKINSON

Public Health Department:

11 Shenley Road, Boreham Wood, Herts.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Elstree Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my fifth Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1945.

DIPHTHERIA

Fifty-five per cent. of the children under 5 and fifty-eight per cent. of those between 5 and 15 in the district had completed the full course of immunisation at the close of the year under review. There was one notification of diphtheria during the year.

SCARLET FEVER

Five cases were notified during 1945 as compared with an average of 21 per year for the past 20 years.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were 23 new cases during the year as against 11, 20, 16, 19 and 9 respectively in the years 1944 to 1940 inclusive.

HEALTH SERVICES

I have taken the opportunity in this Report to revise the information given in Section B (General Provision of Health Services for the Area) which has not been brought up to date since the 1939 Report.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report which begins on page 13 gives details of inspections and improvements effected during the year and I would like to express my appreciation to him and the staff of the Public Health Department for their assistance in the compilation of statistics and for their willing co-operation at all times.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

G. WINN EVERETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA

Area:	8,339 acres		
Population, 1921 Census	4,513		
Population, 1931 Census	6,400		
Registrar-General's estimate of			
(a) resident population mid-1945 ...	} 10,660		
(b) average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates ...			
Number of inhabited houses	{ Elstree 1,936	} 2,559	
(end of 1945) according			Shenley 548
to Rate Books ...			Ridge 75
Rateable Value (1st April, 1946)	£125,891		
Estimated product of a penny rate (1st April 1946)	£480		

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The District comprises the parishes of Shenley and Ridge which are chiefly agricultural and residential, and Elstree. In Elstree the principal occupations are industrial, more particularly the film studios and allied industries, photographic processing, knitting mills, electrical accessories and light engineering. Elstree is to some extent residential, particularly on the west side of the L.M.S. Railway line. On the East side of the L.M.S. Station, in the Boreham Wood portion of the parish, considerable development has taken place. A number of new factories were erected immediately prior to and during the war. Various types of industry are represented, including the manufacture of cosmetics and pharmaceutical chemicals, petrol tanks, pistons, ventilation equipment as well as printing and light engineering works.

VITAL STATISTICS

					Total	M.	F.
Live Births	Legitimate	...	...	...	171	93	78
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	7	3	4
Birth Rate: 16.7 per 1,000 <i>estimated</i> <i>resident population mid-1945.</i>							
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	2	1	1
Rate: 11.1 per 1,000 <i>total (live and still) births.</i>							
Deaths	...	...	...	...	76	40	36
Death Rate: 7.13 per 1,000 <i>estimated</i> <i>average population.</i>							

The Comparability Factor (furnished by the Registrar-General to correct anomalies in age and sex distribution, compared with the country as a whole) is not available for 1945. The Death Rates for England and Wales and for the Administrative County of London respectively are given as 11.4 and 13.8 per 1,000 population.

				Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
<i>Deaths from puerperal causes:—</i>					
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	Nil	—	—
Other puerperal causes	...	Nil	—	—	—
Total	...	...	Nil	—	—

Death rates of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	50.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	52.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	9
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	—

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

One part-time Medical Officer of Health

One whole-time Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector.

2. (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES

Examination of sputum is carried out at the Herts County Council laboratory. Swabs are examined by the Clinical Research Association. Samples of water and milk are examined at the Public Health Sector Laboratory, Peace Memorial Hospital, Watford.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Cases of infectious diseases are conveyed by the Joint Isolation Hospital Ambulance. Non-infectious cases for Wellhouse Hospital are conveyed by the Wellhouse Ambulance. For other hospitals an arrangement has been made with the Watford Corporation for the use of their ambulance service. The Police usually call the Wellhouse Ambulance for street accidents in the district.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME

There are Nursing Associations in Elstree, Boreham Wood, Shenley and Ridge, supplying three whole-time nurses who work under the Herts County Council. There is no special nursing for infectious diseases.

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS:—

(i) Maternity and Child Welfare

First Aid Post, Shenley Road,
Boreham Wood

Ante-Natal:

2nd and 4th Thursdays
at 2.30 p.m.

Infants:

Tuesdays: 2 to 4 p.m.

Clinic: Fieldways, Wellhouse Lane, Barnet

Tuesdays:

Morn. Ante-Natal.
Aft. Children.

(ii) Tuberculosis Dispensary

Out-patients' Department, Wellhouse
Hospital, Barnet

Wednesdays:

All day.

- (iii) School Dental Clinic
Hillside Senior School, Boreham Wood
- (iv) Child Guidance Clinic
H.C.C. Combined Social Services Centre,
Hill End Hospital, St. Albans
- (v) Venereal Diseases
Special Treatment Clinic, Oster House,
St. Albans

Thursdays:
2 to 4 p.m.

Mondays to Fridays:
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturdays:
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
(Patients seen by appointment only)

Females:
Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 5 to 7 p.m.
Fridays 2 to 4 p.m.

Males:
Wednesdays 2 to 4 p.m.
Fridays 5 to 7 p.m.

(e) HOSPITALS

Wellhouse Hospital, Barnet

General hospital containing 600 beds, including maternity beds; managed by the Public Assistance Committee. Has facilities for operative surgery, X-ray, and massage, and has a whole-time pathologist.

Victoria Hospital Barnet

Voluntary hospital containing 52 beds.

Bushey and District Hospital, Bushey

Local cottage hospital, containing 37 beds.

Joint Isolation Hospital, Barnet

Infectious diseases are sent to this hospital, which contains 54 beds.

Joint Smallpox Hospital, Cheshunt
Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Ware

Provided by the Hertfordshire County Council.

The hospital accommodation appears to be adequate.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

I. (i) WATER

The following information with respect to the water supply of the area is given in accordance with Circular 28/46 of the Ministry of Health.

1. The water supply was maintained during 1945 at a satisfactory standard in (a) quality and (b) quantity.
2. The Colne Valley Water Company are the suppliers and they state that frequent chemical and bacteriological examinations of the raw water and of the treated waters

were carried out by the Company's staff and by the County Public Health Laboratory. The results were satisfactory.

3. The water is not plumbo-solvent.
4. There was no action during the year in respect of any contamination.
5. Of the 2,559 houses in the district
 - (a) About 2,519 or 99 per cent. are supplied from piped water mains direct to the house and
 - (b) About 25 or 1 per cent. by means of standpipes.
 The few remaining houses are without piped water supply.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

No important extension of sewerage was carried out during the year.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS

Several cases of minor pollution of streams have been investigated. The development of the factory estate on the south side of Elstree Way, Boreham Wood, has given rise to several instances of oil pollution of water courses. These have been traced and the factories concerned have been required to take the necessary steps to prevent further pollution. In the agricultural part of the district cases of pollution of streams and ponds by farm effluent have been investigated and dealt with.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

With the exception of about 80 pail closets at out-lying farms and farm cottages all the dwelling houses in the district are served by water closets; these, with the exception of a few which discharge into cesspools, are connected to public sewers.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING

House refuse is collected from the whole of the district by the Council's own staff (under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor), and disposed of by controlled tipping at Green Street, Shenley.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The prescribed tabular statement is contained in the Sanitary Inspector's report, which commences on page 13.

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No action was taken during the year.

(v) CAMPING SITES

- (a) The number of sites in the area which were used during 1945 was one, licensed by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.
- (b) Eight annual licences authorising individual applicants to station and use moveable dwellings were issued during the year.
- (c) Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season, excluding holders of individual licences, 40.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action was taken during the year.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths in the area.

(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Nine premises were disinfested by means of Cymex blocks. Subsequent visits were paid but no further infestation was discovered.

4. SCHOOLS

The sanitary condition of the schools is satisfactory. The water is supplied by the Colne Valley Water Company. The schools are visited regularly by the Assistant School Medical Officer, and specially on an outbreak of any infectious disease for the purpose of excluding or examining possible contacts and advising on any necessary measures. All cases of infectious diseases are notified by the head teachers.

No schools were closed for infectious disease.

SECTION D

HOUSING

During the year eighty-six inspections and visits were made in connection with the rural housing survey. The whole of the houses in the rural parts of the district have been inspected. The Boreham Wood part of the district has not yet been surveyed but the great majority of these houses are comparatively modern and will fall automatically into categories one and two, without need for individual detailed inspection.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY

See page 17 of the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(b) SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND FOOD SUPPLIES

See page 17 of the Sanitary Inspector's report.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

There were 5 cases of scarlet fever. The disease was of a mild type, and there were no deaths. All of the cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, Barnet.

There was 1 case of diphtheria. Diphtheria anti-toxin is immediately available if required.

Thirty-seven vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health.

Disinfection of infected premises is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year:—

Disease	Total notified	Total cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	5	5	1
Diphtheria	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1
Erysipelas	5	1	1
Measles	148	1	1
Whooping Cough	41	2	1
Pneumonia	15	1	2
Dysentery	3	1	1

Age-Group	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & up
Scarlet Fever						2	1				2	
Diphtheria									1			
Erysipelas											4	1
Measles	1	18	15	12	14	80	5	1	2			
Whooping Cough	6	4	9	5	4	13						
Pneumonia	3	2	1			2		1	2	2	2	
Dysentery		1						1	1			
Puerperal Pyrexia								1				

Tuberculosis—*New cases and mortality during 1945.*

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 ...								
1—5 ...	1			1				
5—15 ...			1	1				
15—25 ...	1	2	1	1				
25—35 ...	1	4						
35—45 ...	3	1						
45—55 ...	1			1				
55—65 ...	1	1						
65 and up ...				1				
TOTALS	8	8	2	5	—	2	—	—

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Elstree Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I submit my seventh Annual Report, compiled to the same pattern as those of previous years.

The Civil Defence services having at last stood down I have been able to devote my time and energies more fully to public health matters. Housing has ranked high in priority and more than two hundred inspections and visits were made during 1945 in connection with housing accommodation. It is well known that many families in the district are living in overcrowded and unsatisfactory conditions and full details of these have been elicited firstly from individual housing applications and secondly from visits to the homes concerned.

In connection with the rural housing survey, the Boreham Wood part of the district remains to be inspected. Of these houses, numbering roughly one thousand, the great majority are comparatively modern and will fall automatically into categories one and two, without the need for individual inspection. Five hundred and sixty-five houses, chiefly in the Parishes of Shenley and Ridge, have now been inspected and of this number 435 fall into Categories 1 and 2, 56 into Category 3, 4 in Category 4 and 70 in Category 5.

Prominent in my plans for 1946 is a detailed revision of the Factory Register, and energetic steps towards the completion of the Rural Housing Survey.

Assured as I am of your continued assistance and support, I feel every encouragement to tackle these and other pressing matters with full confidence and zeal.

I have the honour to remain,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. D. S. BLACKHALL,

Sanitary Inspector.

PARTICULARS OF INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR

Rural Housing Survey:						
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	58
Visits and re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	28
Public Health Act inspections	...	...	...	...	...	61
Public Health Act re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	169
Visits re overcrowding, including computation of per-						
mitted numbers	...	...	...	...	...	44
Visits in respect of:—						
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	72
Verminous premises	...	...	...	...	...	20
Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	9
Animals	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dirty houses	...	...	...	...	...	28
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	186
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	12
Smoke	...	...	...	...	...	—
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	—
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	5
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	—
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	21
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	120
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	139
Food Preparers	...	...	...	...	...	18
Meat Shops	...	...	...	...	...	11
Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	24
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	35
Stables and piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	16
Ice Cream Manufacturers and Dealers						
Tents, Vans and Sheds (Moveable Dwellings)	...	...	...	...	...	9
Passage and paving	...	...	...	...	...	36
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	—
Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	7
Rats	...	...	...	...	...	34
Water Courses	...	...	...	...	...	63
Housing Accommodation						
Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	...	219
Other inspections	...	...	...	...	...	4
						2

TOTAL 1,466

DETAILS OF INTIMATION AND STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR

Intimation Notices

Nature of Defects	No. of Notices served
General housing defects including leaking roofs, dampness, defective plaster, floors, window-frames, etc....	36
Absence of necessary information in rent books (Sections 4 and 62 of the Housing Act 1936)	16
Drainage	48
Defective w.c. and sink connections	8
Absence of, or dilapidated dustbins	9
Choked and insanitary water courses	2
Filthy or verminous premises	2
Insufficient water supply	3
Waste of water (referred to the Colne Valley Water Board)	5
Offensive accumulations	2
Improper keeping of animals	—
Dairies and cowsheds...	12
Food Preparers	—
Factories and Offices	1
Bakehouses	—
Stables and Piggeries	1
Nuisance from smoke or effluvia	—
Unauthorised use of land as site for moveable dwellings	1
TOTAL	146

Statutory Notices

Nature of Defects	Statute	No. of Notices served	No. of Houses or Premises affected
Nuisances	Section 93, Public Health Act 1936	4	4

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT IN PURSUANCE OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND NOTICES SERVED

	No. of Houses
Repairs to plastering and woodwork	8
Floors repaired	2
Window frames repaired and sash cords renewed...	2
Leaking roofs and gutters repaired	8
External brickwork repointed or repaired	4
Dirty rooms cleansed or redecorated	5
Dampness remedied	8
Cooking ranges and firegrates repaired or renewed ...	5
Facilities for domestic washing provided or improved ...	1
Adequate water supply provided	7
Drains cleared and drainage systems repaired	63
W.c. and sink connections repaired... ..	6
Paving to yards and passages repaired	2
Dustbins provided	7
Water courses cleansed	3
Accumulations removed	2
Nuisance from the keeping of animals abated	—
Cowsheds and dairies limewashed	9
Dairy accommodation provided or improved	2
Cowshed approaches cleansed	—
Food preparers' premises improved	—
Rooms disinfected	12
Verminous houses disinfested	9
Bakehouses cleansed and limewashed	1
Factory defects remedied	3
Smoke nuisance abated	—
Moveable dwellings removed	1
Stables and Piggeries limewashed	1
Miscellaneous	1
TOTAL	172

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED AND PARTICULARS OF CONDEMNATIONS

	Cattle ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1	33	38	2	219
Number inspected	1	33	38	2	219
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	1	—	—	2
Percentage (of the number in- spected) affected with disease (other than tuberculosis) ...	—	3%	—	—	.9%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage (of the number in- spected) affected with tuber- culosis	—	—	—	—	—

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS

Number of accredited milk producers	14
Number of tuberculin tested milk producers	3
Number of other producers	8
Number of retail purveyors	12

During the year 283 inspections were made of cowsheds, dairies and milkshops. Four samples of milk were taken from purveyors within the district; of this number three were of designated milks of which two satisfied the standard imposed by the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936.

Fifty-four samples were taken by the County Council from Accredited, Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested farms in the district.

The following table gives the results of these samples:—

	No. of Samples	Satis- factory	Failed Meth. Blue	Failed B. Coli	Failed Both	Failed Phos. Test
Accredited Milk ...	54	35	7	7	5	—
Tuberculin Tested Milk	2	2	—	—	—	—
School Milk	3	1	—	—	1	1

HOUSING

Summary of action taken

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	28
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Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	Nil
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices: ...	
--	--

(a) By owners	Nil
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(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
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B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied... ..	4
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
---	--

(a) By owners	4
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(b) By local authority in default of owners	—
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